

CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A fifth wheel hitch assembly ~~for mounting on a towing vehicle and receiving a king pin of a trailer~~, comprising:

~~a base assembly;~~

~~a head assembly carried on said base assembly;~~

a jaw assembly carried on said head assembly, said jaw assembly including a jaw body displaceable between an open position and a closed position ~~and a control handle connected to said jaw body;~~

~~means for locking said jaw body in said closed position in engagement with the king pin of the trailer; and~~

a control handle connected to said jaw body, said control handle including a first lockable device;

a locking bracket attached to said head assembly, said locking bracket including a second lockable device;

a king pin indicator ~~for defeating said locking means~~ connected to said head assembly, wherein said king pin indicator prevents said first and second lockable devices from being locked when ~~the~~ a king pin is not fully and properly seated in the head and jaw assemblies.

2. (currently amended) The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 1 further comprising ~~wherein said locking means includes a locking bracket carried by said head assembly and a lock for engaging both said first and second lockable devices~~ locking bracket and said control handle.

3. (original) The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 2, wherein said king pin indicator includes an elongated body having a king pin engaging end, a lock engaging end and an intermediate pivot point.
4. (currently amended) The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 3, further including a spring connected between said king pin indicator and said head assembly for biasing said king pin indicator into a home position, said king pin indicator prevents said first and second lockable devices from being locked ~~defeating said locking means~~ when in said home position.
5. (original) The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 4, wherein said intermediate pivot point includes an aperture in said elongated body and a first pivot pin for pivotally connecting said king pin indicator to said head assembly.
6. (original) The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 5, wherein said head assembly includes a skid plate and a mounting platform.
7. (original) The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 6, further including a second pivot pin, said second pivot pin pivotally connecting said jaw body to said mounting platform.

8. (original) The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 7, wherein said first pivot pin pivotally connects said king pin indicator to said mounting platform.

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (currently amended) A fifth wheel hitch assembly for mounting to a towing vehicle and receiving a king pin of a trailer, comprising:

a base assembly;

a head assembly carried on said base assembly, said head assembly including a first lockable device;

a jaw assembly carried on said head assembly, said jaw assembly including a second lockable device ~~a jaw body displaceable between an open position and a closed position;~~

~~a lock for locking said jaw body in said closed position; and~~

a king pin indicator displaceable between a home position in which said king pin indicator prevents said first and second lockable devices from being locked ~~engagement~~

of ~~said lock~~ and a king pin sensing position in which said first and second lockable devices ~~lock~~ may be ~~engaged~~ locked to lock said jaw body in a ~~said~~ closed position.

14. (currently amended) The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 13, wherein said head assembly includes a locking bracket and ~~said lock engages~~ said locking bracket includes said first locking device ~~and said jaw assembly when locking said jaw body in~~ ~~said closed position.~~

15. (currently amended) The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 14, wherein said jaw assembly includes a control handle connected to said jaw body and said control handle includes said second locking device.

16. (currently amended) The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 15, wherein said first locking device ~~locking bracket~~ includes a first aperture and said second locking device ~~control handle~~ includes a second aperture, ~~said lock engaging~~ said first and second apertures capable of being locked when locking said jaw body in said closed position.

17. (original) The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 16, wherein said king pin indicator includes an elongated body having a king pin engaging end, a lock engaging end and an intermediate pivot point.

18. (original) The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 17, further including a spring connected between said king pin indicator and said head assembly for biasing said king

pin indicator into said home position, said king pin indicator prevents said first and second lockable devices from being locked ~~defeating said lock~~ when in said home position.

19. (original) The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 18, wherein said pivot point includes an aperture in said elongated body and a first pivot pin for pivotally connecting said king pin indicator to said head assembly.

20. (original) The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 19, wherein said lock engaging end of said king pin indicator at least partially blocks said first and second apertures when said king pin indicator is in said home position.

21. (original) The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 13, further including a mounting assembly that carries said base assembly.

22. (currently amended) A method of indicating proper seating of a king pin in a head assembly having a first lockable device and a jaw assembly having a second lockable device of a fifth wheel hitch assembly, comprising:

detecting if the king pin is ~~fully and properly~~ seated in said head and jaw assemblies; and

preventing locking of the jaw assembly in a closed or towing position if ~~full and proper~~ seating of the king pin is not detected by preventing said first and second lockable devices from being locked.

23. (new) The method of claim 22, further comprising locking said first and second lockable devices when the king pin is detected as being seated in said head and jaw assemblies.

24. (new) The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 1, wherein said first locking device includes a first aperture and said second locking device includes a second aperture, said first and second apertures capable of being locked when locking said jaw body in a closed position.